

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 IO-10 ORM-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4185

INFO USUN NEW YORK 1125

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5280

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, CI

SUBJECT: "DISAPPEARED" CHILEAN EXTREMISTS

REF: SANTIAGO 5256 (NOTAL)

1. UK AMBASSADOR SECONDE ASKED ME TODAY WHETHER USG HAD MADE ANY REPRESENTATIONS TO GOC IN CONNECTION WITH CASE OF 119 ALLEGED CHILEAN EXTREMISTS REPORTED IN CERTAIN FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS TO HAVE BEEN KILLED, WOUNDED, OR LOST FROM SIGHT. I TOLD HIM I HAD NOT DONE SO MYSELF IN SPECIFIC TERMS, AND HAD NOT HEARD OF ANY OTHER USG DEMARCHE, THOUGH WE HAD REPEATEDLY STATED OUR GENERAL VIEWS ON GOC HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES.

2. SECONDE SAID THAT HE HAD SPOKEN IN RATHER STRONG TERMS TO FONOFF UNDER SECRETARY COL. VALDES. UK CONCERN AROSE FROM FACT THAT, OUT OF 119 ON THE TWO PUBLISHED LISTS, APPLICATION HAD BEEN MADE FOR ASYLUM IN UK FOR 28. IN 23 OF THESE CASES, RELATIVES OR OTHER SPOKESMEN HAD STATED THAT INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND DETAINED BY WHAT THEY ASSUMED TO BE GOC SECURITY FORCES. FURTHERMORE, LIST OF 119 INCLUDED TWO INDIVIDUALS CONCERNING WHOM BRITISH EMBASSY HAD INQUIRED OF GOC AUTHORITIES, RECEIVING RESPONSE THAT
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BOTH WERE IN CUSTODY AND IN GOOD CONDITION. FONOFF NOW

STATES THIS REPLY IN ERROR.

3. SECONDE SAYS VALDES TOOK LINE THAT DINA OR OTHER GOC SECURITY FORCES COULD NOT POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN SO APPARENTLY STUPID AN OPERATION AS THIS ONE. SUGGESTED PUBLICATION MIGHT HAVE BEEN A LEFT-WING PLOT TO EMBARRASS GOVERNMENT AT ABOUT TIME WHEN UNHRC WORKING GROUP WAS TO HAVE BEEN IN CHILE. SECONDE DID NOT ENTIRELY EXCLUDE THIS POSSIBILITY. BUT HE AGREED IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT LEFT-WING ELEMENTS WOULD USE ARGENTINE PERIODICAL CONTROLLED BY FORMER MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE LOPEZ REGA AS A VEHICLE. HE ALSO AGREED THAT IF THIS WERE ALL A LEFT-WING PLOT, GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED PRESS AND SPOKESMEN WOULD PROBABLY NOT NOW BE CITING IT AS PROOF THEY HAD NOT BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR DISAPPEARANCES. AS MATTERS NOW STAND, THERE WOULD BE TENDENCY TO BELIEVE THAT DINA OR SOME SIMILAR GROUP HAD PLANTED "DISAPPEARANCE" STORIES TO PROVIDE SOME SORT OF PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION FOR SECRET EXECUTION OF THESE INDIVIDUALS BY GOC.

4. WE NOTED IT WAS SURPRISING THAT FOREIGN PRESS HAD APPARENTLY NOT YET PICKED UP STORY. WHATEVER THE TRUTH, WE DOUBTED THIS SILENCE WOULD CONTINUE INDEFINITELY.
POPPER

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